

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:300
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2003
ILLEGAL TRADE IN WILDLIFE
M. JAGANNATH

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the illegal trade in wildlife products and its derivatives is on an increase in the country;
- (b) if so, the preventive measures proposed to be taken/being taken to minimize poaching an illegal trade in wildlife and its derivatives by the wildlife mafia;
- (c) whether the Government maintains data about the wildlife species and their products and derivatives traded illegally across the country and the profile of the wildlife mafia;
- (d) if so, the details of such data for the last three years; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor and by when it is proposed to compile the information?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE)

- (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 300 DUE REPLY ON 22.12.2003 REGARDING ILLEGAL TRADE IN WILDLIFE

(a) There has been an increase in incidents of seizures of wildlife, its products and derivatives during the last few years. However, the main reason for such an increase is attributable to intensive and coordinated action of various enforcement agencies. The success of enforcement agencies does not necessarily indicate an increase in illegal trade.

(b) Steps taken to prevent poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its derivatives by wildlife mafias include:

(1) State level:

(i) State level and District level coordination committees have been set up in several states to check poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(ii) State Wildlife Authorities carry out regular checking of the stocks of dealers of animal products.

(2) National level:

(i) Government of India has set up Regional and Sub-regional Offices for wildlife preservation in major export centers of the country to check smuggling of wild animals and their parts and products.

(ii) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

(iii) Financial and technical help is extended to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz, Project Tiger, Project Elephant and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of states for providing effective protection to wild animals.

(iv) Export of wild animals and their derivatives is prohibited under EXIM policy.

3. International level:

(i) Government of India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).

(ii) Bilateral arrangements have been made with the Government of Nepal and People's Republic of China for monitoring trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife.

(iii) India is a member of the Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries created for addressing international protection issues related to Tiger Conservation.

(c) to (e) Control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife is essentially the responsibility of the State Governments. The data regarding poaching, illegal trade and the persons involved are maintained at the level of State Governments. Names of major wild life species, their parts and products which are illegally traded across the country is at Annexure.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFFERD TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (c) TO (e)) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 300 DUE IN REPLY ON 22.12.2003 REGARDING ILLEGAL TRADE IN WILDLIFE

Details of important wild life species, their parts and derivatives which are illegally traded across the country.

Sl.No	Wildlife species	Parts & derivatives
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1	Tiger	Skin, bones, nails, claws, Penis,
2	Leopard	Skin, bones, nails, claws, Penis.
3	Bear	Gall bladder, Bile.
4	Musk deer	Musk
5	Elephant	Ivory, meat
6	Rhino	Horn
7	Tibetan Antelope	Wool (Shahtoosh)
8	Grey Jungle fowl	Feathers
9	Mongoose	Hair
10	Spiders	Live
11	Horse Shoe Crab	Live
12	Reptiles (snakes, crocodiles, Lizards turtles and tortoises)	Skins, venom, carapace.
13	Swiftlet	Nests
14	Corals	Live and Dead
15	Peacock	Peacock tail feathers, Meat, Oil
16	Rhesus monkey	Live
17	Hooklock gibbon	Live
18	Falcons	Live
19	Parakeets (Alexandrine, Blossom Headed etc)	Live
20	Turtle	Live
21	Sharks and Rays	Fins, Liver.
22	Holothurians	Dried specimen
23	Butterflies and Moths	Dried specimens
24	Deers and Antelopes	Antlers, Meat
25	Sassaurea lappa (Kuth)	Root
26	Rauvolfia serpentina	Root
27	Taxus wallichiana (Himalayan Yew)	Leaf and Bark
28	Nardostachys grandiflora (Indian Nard)	Oil
29	Orchid Species	Plant, bulb
30	Sandalwood	Pieces, Chips, Powder
31	Aquilaria malaccensis (Agarwood)	Pieces, Chips, Powder
32.	Pterocarpus santalinus (Red Sanders)	Pieces, Chips, Powder